

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DOE-15
SOE-02 /115 W

-----082534 222220Z /64

R 221045Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7553
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ABU DHABI 0776

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, PEPR, MT, KU, SA, TC
SUBJECT: VISIT OF DOM MINTOFF TO UAE

REF: VALETTA 0625 (NOTAL)

1. MALTESE PRIME MINISTER DOM MINTOFF CONCLUDED A THREE DAY
OFFICIAL VISIT TO UAE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 21 FOR PURPOSE OF SEEKING
UAE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. MINTOFF'S FIRST STOP HAD BEEN QATAR
AND HIS NEXT STOP IS KUWAIT. AS A GESTURE OF GOOD WILL, HE WAS
SENT OFF TO KUWAIT IN SHAIKH ZAYID'S OFFICIAL AIRCRAFT.

2. MINTOFF INFORMED PRESS THAT BRITAIN WOULD BE LEAVING ITS
BASE IN MALTA IN 1979 AND MALTA NOW INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING
A "PEACE ECONOMY" FOR ISLAND'S 320,000 INHABITANTS AND
"CHANGING THE FORTRESS TO AN ISLAND OF PEACE." HE SAID
EUROPE NOW CONSIDERS MALTA A "NEUTRAL STATE" BUT MALTA
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CURRENTLY MAKING CONTACTS WITH FRANCE AND ITALY FOR
COOPERATION IN TACKLING ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES.

3. FOLLOWING MEETINGS WITH ABU DHABI FUND FOR ARAB
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT FUND WILL
PARTICIPATE, TOGETHER WITH SAUDI ARABIA, IN FINANCING
MALT'S SCHLOKK PORT PROJECT. FUND HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE

TO PROVIDE A 28 MILLION DIRHAM LOAN (ABOUT \$7.5 MILLION) FOR THE PROJECTS TOTAL COST OF 226 MILLION DIRHAM, FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY STUDIES WHICH FUND HAS ASKED TO EXAMINE.

4. DURING THE VISIT MINTOFF PUBLICLY AFFIRMED MALTA'S SUPPORT FOR THE ARAB CAUSE INCLUDING THE RESTORATION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN STATE, AND ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967. MINTOFF MET SEPARATELY WITH NEW PLO REP TO UAE, RIBHI HALLOUM, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT TO SEE HIM OFF. HALLOUM TOLD PRESS THAT MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS ZIONIST AGGRESSION IN LEBANON AND COORDINATION AMONG MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES TO SUPPORT LEGITIMATE PALESTINIAN RIGHTS.

5. COMMENT: MINTOFF SEEMED HIGHLY PLEASED WITH RESULTS OF VISIT AND BY HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION HE RECEIVED, WHICH INCLUDED LENGHTY MEETING WITH UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYID.
DICKMAN

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Message Attributes

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